FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 JUNE 1985

Lebanon

Hostages Crisis — Despite the Israeli leaders' statements that the decision to release 31 Lebanese detainees from 'Atlit 24 June is unconnected with the U.S. hostages issue, there is reasonable ground to assume that Israel's move is a test case aimed at securing a phased release on both sides, Jerusalem television contended. However, Amal movement leader Nabih Birri said the Israeli decision is "insufficient," asserting that Israel must release all 766 detainees in 'Atlit to secure the release of the U.S. hostages, according to Beirut radio. Ghassan 'Ali Sublani, Birri's deputy, had earlier announced Amal's acceptance of a Swiss proposal to assist in ending the hostages crisis, the radio reported. However, Sublani also told AFP that if negotiations remain deadlocked Amal will hand the hostages back to the hijackers, whom he identified in a *DER SPIEGEL* interview as members of Hezbollah, the "Party of God." In another diplomatic development, Beirut radio cited an official Syrian source's statement to AFP that Syria is attempting to resolve the crisis, but no such statement was mentioned by monitored Syrian media.

As for the whereabouts of the hostages, Voice of Lebanon radio stated that six hostages have been moved to the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks in Ba'labakk, where five other U.S. and European kidnap victims are being held. The radio also reported that antiaircraft systems were deployed around Beirut airport in the wake of overflights by U.S. aircraft early 22 June.

In further Arab reaction to the affair, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Bahrain denounced air piracy in official statements carried respectively by SPA, KUNA, and WAKH.

Beirut Security — A fresh wave of attacks on Amal movement positions by units of the Sunni militia Al-Murabitun was reported over the weekend by Voice of Lebanon radio, which also spoke of renewed clashes across the Muslim-Christian combat lines. A security source cited by the radio disclosed that efforts are under way to form a force of 2,000 men from the Lebanese Army and the Internal Security Forces to police both the Palestinian camps and the confrontation lines. Meanwhile, work continued in accordance with the Damascus agreement to remove all signs of an armed presence in and around the Palestinian camps, Beirut radio noted.

Syria-USSR

President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Syria 22 June following his "successful, positive, and fruitful" talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow, Damascus radio reported. The radio spoke of "identical" Syrian and Soviet viewpoints on bilateral relations, the situation in the Middle East, Lebanon, and the Palestinian arena, and the confrontation of the "schemes of U.S. imperialism and Israel." In a related commentary, the radio described Al-Asad's visit to the USSR as "an important step in making the Arab decision stronger than the comprehensive U.S. plot."

However, Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH* reported that the Syrian and Soviet leaders differed over the Lebanese issue, with the Soviets warning Syria against plans to expand its military deployment in Lebanon and stressing their rejection of the notion of "Greater Syria." The Kuwaiti paper, which cited Arab and Foreign diplomatic sources, also said the Syrian leadership demanded that Soviet missile emplacements around Damascus be placed under Syria's command. Another Kuwaiti paper, *AL-QABAS*, contended that the USSR advised Syria to use its influence with Nabih Birri to end the hijacking crisis "because the United States and Israel are planning a major military operation in Lebanon," WAKH reported.

Egyptian Military: Alert Denied, Presence in Jordan

KUNA's report that the Egyptian Armed Forces were placed on maximum alert 23 June was denied as "unfounded" by a responsible Egyptian source cited by MENA. Earlier, Kuwait's *AL-WATAN* stated that Egyptian forces have been dispatched to Jordan to prevent Syria from increasing its domination over Lebanon and to put an end to Syrian ambitions of establishing a Greater Syria and imposing hegemony over Jordan.

PLO-Palestinians

Jordan Bases Denial — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has categorically denied the Kuwaiti press report about the establishment of Fatah military bases in Jordan, Amman's *SAWT AL-SHA'B* disclosed on 23 June. The 20 June *AL-ANBA' story was also dismissed as "absolutely untrue" by* a senior Jordanian official, who said the establishment of Fatah training camps in Jordan was never discussed during 'Arafat's recent meetings with Husayn, according to Radio Monte Carlo. For Israel's part, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir warned in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio that "doubt will be cast on the entire issue of peace talks with Husayn" if the latter allows the PLO training facilities on Jordanian territory.

Lebanon Camps, Arab Summit — A Fatah statement carried by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio 21 June confirmed Fatah's desire to maintain a cease-fire in the Beirut refugee camps and stressed Syria's responsibility for "every drop of Lebanese-Palestinian blood shed in the camps war." A PLO statement broadcast subsequently by Algiers Voice of Palestine accused Syrian intelligence agents, acting in conjunction with the Amal movement, of preventing dozens of Palestinian families from reentering Lebanon at Beirut airport. Meanwhile, 'Arafat revealed that "enemy forces" have captured three ships sent by the PLO to assist the Palestinians in Beirut, according to an Abu Dhabi paper cited by KUNA.

As for Morocco's endeavors to arrange an extraordinary Arab summit on developments in the Palestinian issue, Moroccan sources in Abu Dhabi said King Hassan II has proposed 12 July

as the date for a summit meeting, QNA reported. Recent Moroccan diplomatic activity has included the foreign minister's visit to Damascus over the weekend, as reported by Damascus radio, which said his discussions with Syrian officials dealt with "the current Arab situation."

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tour — Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was received in Damascus by Syrian President al-Asad on 23 June, Damascus radio reported, and their discussion dealt with the Middle East situation, bilateral relations, and issues of mutual concern. Meanwhile, Tripoli and Tehran radios broadcast the Libyan-Iranian joint communique issued after Hashemi-Rafsanjani's talks in Libya with Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi and Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud. The communique condemned all "conspiracies" against the Palestinian revolution, contending that the executors of the recent actions against Palestinian camps in Lebanon are "agents of U.S. imperialism and the Zionists."

Tehran Explosion — IRNA blamed "agents of the hypocrites and of world oppression" for a 22 June car-bomb explosion in Tehran that wounded 10 people.

Iran-Iraq War; Gulf Shipping

Tehran radio claimed that Iranian forces launched further successful attacks on Iraqi positions on the southern front early 21 June, killing or wounding 170 soldiers of Iraq's III Army and inflicting "hundreds" of casualties in the Majnun Islands sector. However, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio said the Iraqi III Army repelled the Iranian attack, killing or wounding 200 Iranian soldiers.

In the Gulf, the Iranian Navy intercepted and detained a Kuwaiti-registered cargo ship late on 20 June, according to Gulf maritime sources cited by KUNA. The incident follows Iran's brief detention of two other ships in the Gulf last month, the *GULF DAILY NEWS noted.*

Pakistan-DRA

Pakistan has protested to Afghanistan over a 22 June cross-border shelling attack that killed or injured 7 people in Baluchistan, Karachi radio reported. The DRA had earlier rejected Pakistani allegations of airspace violations and cross-border shelling on 9-10 June, according to Kabul radio. As for the situation inside Afghanistan, mujahidin sources cited by IRNA claimed that over 400 Soviet-DRA troops were killed in an unsuccessful attempt to break the mujahidin siege of Zurmat, a township in Paktia Province.

Sudan

Former president Ja'far Numayri is considered a "runaway field marshal" because of his failure to report to his unit within a 3-week specified period, the Transitional Military Council's legal advisor announced in a statement carried by SUNA 23 June.

Western Sahara

Saharan official communiques and statements cited by Algiers radio asserted that the Saharan people's liberation army killed or wounded over 500 Moroccan troops in recent attacks in the Western Sahara. The heaviest losses were reportedly inflicted during a 14 June attack on Moroccan forces at Mahbes.

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Ministry Rejects Pakistan's Violation Charges

LD221644 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs today at 1330. The following points were mentioned to him by the head of the First Political Department:

The military government of Pakistan, continuing its groundless accusations against the DRA, has alleged that on 7 and 9 June this year, Afghan aircraft violated Pakistani airspace southeast of Arandu and north of Waziristan. It also alleged that on 9 and 10 June, Pakistani border posts were fired on from DRA border posts in Spin Buldak, without causing damage.

The DRA Government, after full investigation, regards these allegations by the military government of Pakistan as untrue and resolutely rejects them. It also states that Pakistani authorities should end such fabrications, which do nothing but aggravate tension along the borders.

Security Forces Crush 'Rebels' in Herat

LD221711 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] As a result of operations carried out recently by the courageous security forces in Sarsari and Karez villages, Golran District, Herat Province, a number of armed rebels have been crushed. The security forces seized from these criminals 25 assorted weapons, 90 shells for rocket-launchers, 7 shells for recoilless guns, 54 boxes of DShK ammunition, 4 boxes of mortars, 4 boxes of antitank and antipersonnel mines, 25,000 rounds of ammunition and 8 boxes of hand grenades. The security forces also destroyed 18 weapons and ammunition stores and 5 committees [as heard].

Clashes Among 'Bandits' in Pakistan Cited

LD240851 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Kabul, June 23, BAKHTAR: According to the reports reaching here, differences and armed clashes among the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands, stationed in Pakistan, have assumed new and dangerous dimensions.

The severe clashes, which took place between the Afghan fugitives and the residents of Hokari region, north-west of Pakistan, severely injured 3 fugivites and 2 residents. Accordingly, the Pakistani police have surrounded the bandit camp of the counter-revolutionaries in the north-west of Pakistan due to the inadmissable actions of its residents. The police, moreover, rounded up 60 leaders of the camp and clamped down restrictions on the movement of the residents of the camp.

According to other reports, a number of the members of Gulbuddin band carried out a night attack on Kamki camp of Sayof band in Para Chenar Kurram agency in the same region. The attack ended to the serious injury of a member of the criminal Sayof band.

A number of the Afghan compatriots living in Pakistan, attacked on the Shesho camp of the counter-revolutionary elements in Said Korma agency in the same region. Five counter-revolutionaries elements in Said Korma agency in the same region. Five counter-revolutionaries lost their lives due to the attack.

U.S.-Made Chemical Weapons Captured From Rebels

LD240705 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Kabul, June 23, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

While the USA and the USSR are holding talks on the banning and freezing of nuclear and leathal weapons on the earth as well as the preventing of militarization of the outer space, the U.S. House of Representatives has endorsed the allocation of 124 million dollars aimed at production and modernisation of chemical weapons of that country.

This is fully in line with the implementation of the plan of military doctrine of the Reagan administration, Weinberger, the U.S. secretary of defense, had already admitted that the U.S. Armed Forces can make use of chemical weapons till 1985. He had also added that the USA will finish the new systems of carrying chemical weapons till 1990.

The Reagan administration hypocritically speaks about reaching agreement on the complete banning of the chemical weapons and their immediate extermination. On the contrary, it takes actions which do not conform with its words in implementing its devilish and adventuristic plots. Also, it equips the US Armed Forces with more dangerous and new chemical weapons.

At the moment, the USA puts the most up-to-date chemical weapons and poisonous materials at the disposal of the Afghan counter-revolution targetted at annihilating the innocent people of Afghanistan.

In 1981, US-made chemical missiles marked S-C [designation as received] were seized from the Afghan bandits in Herat Province, west of the country.

The people of Afghanistan eyewitnessed the crimes committed by the counter-revolutionary elements at the behest of their American masters against the innocent Afghan people in 1982. One instance of such crimes was the poisoning of the drinking water and the atmosphere at schools as a result of which hundreds of the families were set to mourning.

At the beginning of 1984, US-made chemical mines were found from the counter-revolutionary elements in Ghazni Province.

In addition, a number of the captured counter-revolutionary elements have confessed before the audience of the press conferences held in Kabul about how they had got access to the chemical weapons from the American sources.

Suffice it to say that one of the counter-revolutionary elements linked with Jamiat-E-Islami counter-revolutionary band had

confessed in one of the press conferences that five grammes of the poisoning materials which were given to him by American advisors were enough to kill 20 persons.

The US imperialism not only equips the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands with all sorts of heavy destructive and lethal weapons and money but it also put at their disposal paralysing and mass destruction chemical weapons.

Commentator on Reagan's 'Government Terrorism'
LD212108 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] The BIA political commentator writes:

U.S. sources have admitted that the CIA — this hellish U.S. espionage organization — has embarked on very costly secret operations against the DRA following the Vietnam war. Government terrorism, which has now become the official policy of the Washington administration, has been used against those countries choosing an independent policy not to Washington's liking. The best example of this is the DRA and revolutionary Nicaragua.

Ever since the victory of the April revolution in Afghanistan and the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua, the Reagan administration has been using government terrorism against these two awakening countries.

By spending hundreds of millions of dollars the U.S. did not spare any barbaric and criminal efforts in trying to drown the April revolution in Afghanistan and the Nicaraguan revolution in blood.

In this unholy war the U.S. utilizes all means and channels. some time ago the U.S. Congress, calling it humanitarian assistance, approved another $15 million for the counterrevolutionary bands of Afghanistan; the U.S. Senate, while earlier rejecting $14 million in funding for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, now under the pressure of the Reagan administration — he himself is standing on top of this treacherous struggle — has agreed to give $37 million to them.

The question here is: Which humanitarian objective is involved in these dollars — the so-called humanitarian assistance given to the Afghanistan and Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, as well as to Cambodia's Laos' and other emancipated and progressive countries' counterrevolutionaries?

During the 7 years after the April revolution the U.S. has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on the revolution's enemies — during the current year alone $280 million in military assistance has been allocated to the Afghanistan counterrevolutionaries.

The purpose of this American-type humanitarian assistance is to sow the seeds of murder in the territory of Afghans and in Nicaragua.

Reagan, naturally, speaks about freedom and democracy; in practice however he gives himself the right to soak in blood the uprising people of the world in Latin America, Asia and Africa, and regards his shameful terrorist actions as depending freedom and democracy, and the American version of human rights.

Mr Reagan wants to impose on the people of our-world the the type of humanism followed by the criminal and bloodthirsty regimes of Pinochet in Chile, Pol Pot in Kampuchea, South Africa and Israel, and the military and bloodthirsty dictatorial regimes in the Central and Latin America.

President Returns From Visit to ROK, Japan

BK240126 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Excerpts] President Hussain Mohammad Ershad returned to Dhaka this evening at the end of his 9-day state visit to South Korea and Japan. Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport, he described his visit as extremely successful. The president said South Korea and Japan sincerely want to help Bangladesh in its economic development. We wanted technology from them to develop our country, and they have agreed to do that.

The president said peace and stability and maintenance of law and order is essential for development, and his government will maintain the present stability at all cost for the country's economic development.

During his absence from the country for about 10 days, he said, he was always in touch with the situation in the cyclone-affected areas. He was grieved to learn of extensive damage caused by floods in some areas and said everything possible will be done for the relief of the affected people.

President Expresses Grief Over Indian Plane Crash

BK240148 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] President Ershad has expressed deep shock and grief at the heavy loss of life in the Air India jumbo jet crash in the Atlantic.

In a message to the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the president said we are deeply shocked and grieved at the tragic [words indistinct] of the crash. The president conveyed to the grieving families his sincere condolences.

Dhaka on Flood Situation in Maulvibazar

BK221618 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] The flood situation in Maulvibazaar improved further today with the fall of water in Manu River, but the situation has deteriorated in Fenchuganj. The flood has damaged about 95 percent of standing crops in Fenchuganj Upazila [subdistrict]. The River Kusiyara is still flowing 4 feet above the danger level. Road communication has been disrupted and the (Senchuganj) bazaar has gone under knee-deep water. Five relief camps have been opened in different parts of the upazila.

The deputy chief martial law administrator, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed, accompanied by the relief minister, Major General Mohabbatjan Chowdhury, and zonal martial law administrator Zone B, Major General Shafie Ahmed Chowdhury, flew over the flood-affected areas of Moulavibazar District today.

Relief operations are going on in the affected areas of the district. A number of (?public) kitchens have also been opened. The Red Cross Society has sent relief goods for the flood-affected people.

7 Dead; 1.5 Million Marooned

BK231040 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] At least seven people have been killed in floods sweeping eastern and northern Bangladesh. All the deaths were reported from the worst-hit area — Maulvibazar District — bordering Assam. According to an agency report, nearly 1.5 million people were marooned by the floods. According to latest reports, two cargo barges with about 8,000 bags of imported fertilizer worth U.S. $90,000 sank at Bangladesh's southern port, Chalna, when they were caught by a gusty wind on Wednesday.

Reportage, Comment on Crash of Air India Plane

Minister Claims 'Midair Explosion'

BK231403 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Excerpts] An Air India jumbo jet with 325 people on board crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Ireland this morning, 40 minutes before it was due to land at Heathrow Airport in London.

The minister of state for tourism and civil aviation, Mr Ashok Gehlot, has expressed shock and distress at the mishap. He told our correspondent in New Delhi this evening that it appears to be a case of midair explosion. The matter requires detailed examination. A team of Air India and civial aviation officials are leaving for Ireland shortly.

President, Prime Minister Comment

BK231608 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] The president and the prime minister have expressed shock and distress over the [Air India] crash. The president in a message expressed sympathy and condolence to the families of the deceased.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, is ordering a judicial inquiry into the accident. In his message he expressed deep shock and distress and said that there is a terrible sense of loss. He said his heart goes out in sympathy to the members of the bereaved families and hoped that they will bear this loss with courage and fortitude.

Expressing shock and distress at the mishap, the minister of state for tourism and civil aviation, Mr Ashok Gehlot, told our correspondent in New Delhi that it appears to be a case of midair explosion. The matter required detailed examination.

The Youth Congress-I president, Mr Anant Sharma, has also expressed shock at the air crash.

Groups Claim Responsibility

BK240259 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] Two extremist groups have claimed responsibility for blowing up the Air India jumbo jet Kanishka which crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the Irish cost with 329 people on board, including 4 infants and 77 children.

Agency reports from New York say that a young man identifying himself as a member of an extremist organization rang up to *THE NEW YORK TIMES* office and claimed responsibility of planting the bomb on Air India's plane. The New York source is also reported to have received a call from an anonymous person with an Indian accent who claimed responsibility on behalf of another extremist organization.

Third Group Claims Responsibility

BK240755 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Excerpt] A third group has claimed responsibility for the crash of the Air India jumbo jet Kanishka. An anonymous caller rang up the Canadian Broadcasting Network to claim the responsibility. Earlier, two groups had claiemd responsibility for the blowing up of the plane. Responsibility was claimed through telephone calls made to two New York dailies last night. All the three are reported to be extremist organizations.

Meanwhile, search for the possible survivors was resumed this morning. Four helicopters of the Royal Air Force left Cork Airport in Ireland this morning to continue the search. The reports say that there could hardly be any survivor. Helicopters of the U.S. Air Force, standing by at Shannon International Airport in Ireland, have also joined the search. A British minisubmarine is also being pressed into service to probe the Atlantic depth for the flight recorder that could establish whether the plane was bombed out of the sky. Some ships are also continuing the search in the area. The Irish prime minister, Mr Garret Fitzgerald, is visiting Cork Airport today to inspect the scene of the disaster. Over 140 bodies have so far been recovered from the sea, and 18 bodies have been brought to the Cork Airport. Air India is making arrangements to fly the relatives of the crash victims to London to identify the bodies.

The Canadian Government has ordered increased security measures for all international flights following the Air India mishap.

Official on Sabotage

BK240901 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Excerpts] A third group has claimed responsibility for the crash of the Air India jumbo jet Kanishka.

The managing director of Air India, Mr D. Bose, told newsmen in New Delhi a short while ago that 144 bodies have so far been recovered from the sea. They are being taken to the Cork Island, which is the nearest point to the site of the crash. He said arrangements have been made to fly relatives of the crash victims to Cork Island for identification of the bodies. He said it is yet to be decided whether a funeral will take place there itself.

Answering questions about the cause of the crash, he ruled out the possibility of structural fatigue of the aircraft. He said the plane had enough fuel to fly for another 3 hours when it crashed. The very fact that the wreckage was strewn over a large area indicates that there was a mid-air explosion. There is a high probability of sabotage, but nothing can be said for definite until the enquiry is over.

Mr Bose said a number of countries will be associated with the enquiry. Canada has also requested to be associated with it, as most of the victims were nationals of that country. He said the flight data recorder and the cockpit voice recorder have been located buried deep in water. Efforts are on to take them out. If

their wirings are intact, they may provide a clue to the cause of the crash.

In reply to a question about safety precautions by Air India, he said adequate measures are being strictly observed. For every flight, luggage is being subjected to a special explosive check as well as X-ray. Police dogs are also occasionally being pressed into service. He said if the crash was because of sabotage, there could be a possibility of penetration by saboteurs.

Referring to the blast of the container of the Canadian jumbo jet at Narita airport in Japan, he said the Indian experts will also visit that place.

Gandhi Appeals to Hijackers To Release Hostages

BK230311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has appealed to the hijackers of the American Airliner in Beirut to release the hostages on humanitarian grounds. A statement issued on behalf of the prime minister said the hijacking and the continued holding of the hostages has caused concern and distress throughout the world.

The prime minister called upon all the countries to cooperate in bringing about a peaceful solution to the issue. He said the government and the people of India have always strongly disapproved of hijacking and terrorism.

He said lasting peace can return to West Asia only after the outstanding problems are solved on the basis of acceptance of the rights of the Palestinians and cessation of hostilities by Israel against its neighbors.

Gandhi Sends Message to Katmandu on Bomb Blasts

BK211240 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has expressed his deep distress and shock at the series of bomb blast in Katmandu.

In a message to King Birendra, he said he has always been deeply opposed to all such terrorist and extremist violence and expressed his sympathies to the affected families.

President Confers Rank on Nepal Army Chief

BK211212 Delhi Domestic Srevice in English 0830 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] The president, Giani Zail Singh, conferred the honorary rank of the general of the Indian Army on the Royal Nepal Army chief, General Arjun Narasingh Rana, at a special investiture ceremony in the Rashtrapathi Bhavan [president's house] today.

Those present on the occasion included the defense minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, the three service chiefs, and the Nepalese ambassador to India.

Reportage on Visit of Iran's Besharati

Sees Delhi Mediation Role

GF220614 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Mr Besharati, Iran's deputy foreign minister, who arrived in New Delhi yesterday afternoon to deliver a message from President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, took part in a press conference.

He told reporters: Following the recent developments in the region, Iran found it necessary to inform friendly countries about these developments and existing issues. He said: Although the Iraqi regime started its second round of attacks against Iranian towns a while ago, the major countries in the Nonaligned Movement have remained silent on this matter. These countries are responsible for Iraq's transgressions and must put pressure on Iraq to stop these attacks.

He added: Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian prime minister, has made several trips in the past few weeks. Naturally, Iran will find out more about these travels and will in return inform the Indian premier on the trip of Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister, to Iran and also on the renewal of the Iraqi regime's attacks on Iran's towns and residential areas. These attacks followed the visit of the Saudi official to Iran.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister commented on the very close ties that exist between the Islamic Republic of Iran and India. He said: In the recent nonaligned conference in Indonesia all participating delegations saw the very close relations between the Iranian and Indian delegations.

He answered questions on India's possible role in the war between Iran and Iraq and what India can do to stop these hostilities. He said: India, as the host of the nonaligned countries and the present head of the Nonaligned Movement, is a respected country and can use its respect and influence to stop the Iraqi regime's attacks on nonmilitary centers in Iranian towns. It can persuade Iraq not to attack these areas.

IRNA: Further Details

LD220901 Tehran IRNA in English 0550 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] New Delhi, June 22, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati arrived here Friday carrying a message of President 'Ali Khamene'i for the Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi.

In a talk at the airport, Besharati said that he would discuss the stand of Islamic Republic against crimes of the Iraqi regime in his meetings with Indian leaders and would ask him as head of the Non-aligned Movement to pressure Iraq to cease its attacks upon Iranian residential areas.

In reply to a question by an Indian reporter on the role of India as a mediator for ending the Iraq-Iran war, the deputy foreign minister said that India as the head of the Non-aligned Move-

ment could use its position and influence for pressing Iraq to stop its cities. India could perhaps convince Iraq that such acts constitute brutal and inhuman agression, he said.

On his meetings with Indian authorities, he said that the mutual relations between the two countries of the Islamic Republic and India were very close and that Iran had informed Mr. Gandhi of the trip of Saudi foreign minister, noting too that after the Saudi minister's visit Iraqi attacks upon Iranian residential areas were started.

He noted that Iraq aimed at separate Iran from its friends. He will also discuss issues of mutual interest between the two countries during his visit.

Talks on Gulf War Held

BK221000 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] In New Delhi today, the visiting Iranian delegation led by the deputy minister for foreign affairs, Mr 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, held discussions with Indian officials on the Iran-Iraq war. The Indian side was led by the secretary in the external affairs ministry, Dr J.S. Teja.

The delegation explained Iran's position on various issues involving the war. The Indian side recounted the efforts of the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, who is the chairman of the Non-aligned Movement, to put an end to the conflict between two friendly nonaligned countries. They reviewed the developments since the prime minister's initiative in March when the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, and the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, had visited Baghdad and Tehran. The discussions are to continue.

The Iranian deputy minister has brought a message from his president a message for the prime minister. He is scheduled to meet Mr Khurshid Alam Khan on Monday.

Meets Deputy Foreign Minister

LD221751 Tehran IRNA in English 1724 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Tehran, June 22, IRNA — In response to an Iranian protest to Iraqi violations of international war conventions, a high-ranking Indian official said Saturday that his government would use all its efforts toward an honourable peace in the imposed Iraqi war.

The Indian deputy foreign minister in charge of Middle Eastern affairs, Mr. Teja, told Iran's visiting deputy foreign minister, Mohammad 'Ali Besharati that it was necessary for the two countries to cooperate more in their dealing with international affairs.

Besharati told the Indian official that the silence of international organizations regarding Iraqi violations of war conventions, such as the ban on the deployment of chemical weapons, was an encouragement to the Baghdad regime. Besharati also stressed the fact that the war started with an Iraqi attack to topple the Islamic Republic and that Iran still demands the ouster of Saddam as a condition for peace.

The Indian official said his government has made every effort to bring about an honorable peace, and would continue to do so in the future.

Briefs Deputy Minister

LD231127 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] New Delhi, June 23, IRNA — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati who is visitng India met with the Indian senior deputy foreign minister Romesh Bhandari here this morning. At this meeting, Iraqi attacks against Iran's residential areas as well as other crimes committed by the Ba'thist Iraqi regime against Iran were discussed.

While stressing the fact that parts of Iranian territory were still under Iraqi occupation, Besharati told his Indian counterpart about the resolution of the Iranian people and said the Iranian nation has proved that they will not submit to a compromise and that their reply to Iraq's barbaric acts was an emphatic "no".

Condemning the presence of superpowers in the region, Besharati said Iran was the first country to condemn the recent abortive attempt on the life of the amir of Kuwait and that a personal representative had been sent to visit the amir and express Iran's condemnation of such acts.

In response, the Indian deputy foreign minister who has recently been visiting regional countries, told Besharati about the efforts of the Non-aligned Movement vis-a-vis the Iraqi-imposed war on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hindu-Muslim Rioting Erupts in Ahmedabad

HK211025 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] New Delhi, June 21 (AFP) — At least three persons suffered stab wounds today in the second day of Hindu-Moslem rioting in the western city of Ahmedabad, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. In a separate incident, a bomb placed in a plastic bag exploded in a passenger train as it halted at Baroda Station, 200 km (124 miles) south of Ahmedabad. It damaged the coach, but no one was hurt.

The rioting erupted yesterday in the old walled quarter of Ahmedabad, the main textile town of western Gujarat State, despite strong security measures mounted by the Army and police in preparation for the Moslem festival to mark the end of the Moslem holy month of Ramadan. The day coincided with the Hindu chariot procession to observe the annual car festival which is celebrated throughout India.

Trouble started when the Hindus went out in procession from the city's main temple in defiance of a police ban and proceeded to the Moslem areas, where they were stoned by youths, PTI said. The Hindus also used elephants and cows to push through police barricades, forcing the Army to open fire. At least seven people were killed yesterday in Army firing and over 20 others were

injured. At least three other people suffered stab wounds in the rioting today.

Ahmedabad and other parts of Gujarat in the past four months had already been plagued by Hindu inter-caste violence. Nearly 200 people died in clashes as upper caste Hindus fought against a government decision to allot more jobs and places in educational institutions to lower caste Hindus.

1 Killed; Curfew Imposed

BK211610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] In Ahmedabad city, one person was killed and another injured in mob attack and stabbing incidents today. In Kalupur, the Army burst tear gas shells to disperse two groups indulging in stone throwing.

Curfews was imposed on Dholka town and Viramgam in Ahmedabad District following some stabbing incidents.

A PTI report said that a large number of women staged dharna [sit-in] in different parts of Dariapur and Kalupur in Ahmedabad city in protest against the taking out of the Rath Yatra [Hindu car festival] procession yesterday despite the government ban.

Bomb Explosion Injures 10

BK221316 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] In Ahmedabad, 10 persons including 3 women and 2 children were injured today in three incidents of bomb explosion in Daryapur locality. The incidents took place during curfew relaxation period. Some incidents of stabbing have also been reported.

Meanwhile, a 9-member high-level delegation representing all-India backward classes, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and minorities has arrived in Ahmedabad on a 2-day visit the state. The delegation addressed the meeting of workers at Gandhinagar this morning. The members of the delegation also met the governor, Mr B.K. Nehru.

Foreign Office Spokesman Condemns TWA Hijacking

BK221540 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1510 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] Pakistan has expressed its concern and condemnation at the growing trend of terrorism and air piracy. A statement issued from the Foreign Office in Islamabad today called for the immediate release of all persons who have been detained in utter violation of international law and the principles of civilized conduct. As a signatory to the Hague and Montreal conventions, Pakistan also called upon all parties concerned to respect human principles. The statement also called for the immediate release of the innocent passengers and the crew of the American TWA plane now being held hostage.

Pakistan has also condemned the continued detention of the Lebanese citizens and the kidnapping of Palestinians and demanded that they be released without any delay.

President Sends Message on Indian Plane Crash

BK231627 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed deep grief and sorrow over the Air India plane mishap which suffered a heavy loss of life. The plane crashed during a flight over the Atlantic Ocean today. In a message to Indian President Giani Zail Singh, the president said that he is deeply grieved over the lamentable incident which resulted in the loss of a number of valuable lives. The president, on behalf of the Pakistani Government, people, and on his own behalf, expressed his heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the Indian president and the affected families. He said that Pakistani people join in his prayer to God so that he provides the survivors with the courage to bear this irreparable loss.

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in his message to the Indian prime minister said that the Pakistani Government and people were deeply grieved on learning about the Indian plane crash which had more than 300 persons on board. The prime minister, on behalf the Pakistani Government, people, and on his own behalf, expressed sympathy with the Indian people on this distressing occasion. He offered heartfelt condolences to Rajiv Gandhi and asked him to convey our feelings to the bereaved families. He wished to God that he would enable them to bear the deep shock.

Prime Minister Accepts Invitation To Visit PRC

BK240415 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] The Chinese ambassador in Pakistan met Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi yesterday. The Chinese ambassador is the first foreign diplomat to have met with the prime minister. He congratulated Mohammad Khan Junejo for assuming charge of prime ministership of Pakistan. He also extended an invitation to the prime minister to visit China. Accepting the invitation, the prime minister assured the Chinese ambassador that he would visit China at his earliest convenience.

Noorani Comments on Afghanistan Solution

BK230435 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] Minister of State for External Affairs Zain Noorani has said that Pakistan will not deviate from its principled stand on Afghanistan. Addressing a function in Karachi he said Pakistan strongly believes that the Afghanistan problem can only be solved through talks and that is why Pakistan is making every possible effort to achieve a political settlement to this problem.

Afghan Artillery Hits Chaman; Protest Lodged

BK231545 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Chaman town in Pakistan's Baluchistan was shelled at 1500 yesterday and 20 artillery rounds hit the area. As a result of the shelling, three residents including a woman and a child were killed and four injured. Besides this, several shops were destroyed or damaged.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and a strong protest was lodged over the unprovoked attack. He was asked to convey to his authorities that the entire responsibility for the serious consequences of such attacks will lie with the Kabul authorities if these acts are not stopped.

Governor Visits Chaman

BK231700 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] Baluchistan Governor Lieutenant General K.K. Afridi and Chief Minister Jam Mir Ghulam Qadir Khan visited Chaman this morning to meet the people who were affected by indiscriminate shelling by the Afghan militia yesterday. Three persons were killed in the shelling.

Addressing a large gathering of people in Chaman, the provincial governor said that Pakistan is a peace-loving country and it desires to maintain cordial relations with all neighboring countries. However, he added, Pakistan's policy of peace with all countries should not be taken as weakness. Pakistan is fully capable of (?protecting) every inch of its territory and the life and property of its people. Pakistan has been acting with patience and restraint because it does not want to add to the difficulties of the Afghan people who are already suffering in the hands of the Karmal regime. The governor urged the spirited tribals also not to deviate from the path of patience even in the face of serious provocations. He assured that the government will view seriously the Afghan attacks on Pakistani territory.

Chief Minister Mir Jam Ghulam Qadir Khan said on the occasion that the government and people are committed to defend every inch of the beloved motherland at any cost. He warned the Kabul authorities to refrain from such repeated aggressive acts against the peaceful people of Chaman. The people present at the

gathering strongly pledged to protect the sacred territory of Pakistan against any aggression.

Islamabad Airport Temporarily Closed 16 June
GF231149 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 17 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, 16 Jun -- Islamabad International Airport was suddenly closed at midnight on Saturday and all the lights were extinguished. A Lahore newspaper cites airport officials as saying that this was done on the instructions of the secretary of the Defense Ministry.

The 0130 hours flight bound for Copenhagen was also detained, but no reasons were given. The prime minister has been kept informed of the situation.

NEPAL

Further Reportage on Bombings in Katmandu

Premier Blames Antimonarchists

HK211446 Hong Kong AFP in English 1425 GMT 21 Jun 85

[By Jean Francois Leven]

[Text] Katmandu, June 21 (AFP) — Premier Lokendra Bahadur Chand today blamed left-wing anti-monarchists for 12 bomb blasts which rocked Nepal yesterday killing seven people, including a legislator, as police arrested 125 suspects.

Those detained included Harendra Bahadur Thapa, brother of former prime minister Surya Bahadur Thapa, and his press officer, their families said.

In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, Mr. Chand said that his government, and not King Birendra, was the target of the explosions, in which at least 22 people were also injured. Two bombs went off near the palace and one in the lobby of the parliament building. Mr. Chand, in office since July 1983 when he succeeded Mr. Thapa, said the attacks "might be caused by an organised group to disturb the peaceful life and create panic among the people."

Five of the bomb blasts were in the capital of this Himalayan kingdom, which had never seen violence of this kind. The dead included a legislator in Nepal's partyless Panchayat system, two Indian tourists and one suspected militant believed to have blown himself up. Around 125 people have been arrested in connection with the bombings, the Interior Ministry said.

Mr. Chand said an official enquiry into the blasts was going apace and that the government might announce the initial results when parliament meets Sunday after breaking off because of the attacks. The prime minister was unwilling to link the bombings with a civil disobediance campaign launched last month by the outlawed Nepali Congress Party. The party yesterday said it would call of the campaign because of the blasts.

The congress and the Communist Party, also banned under the Constitution, were pressing for the abolition of the Panchayat system and the return to a multi-party form of government. The two groups also demanded that all political prisoners be freed and that the government adopt a more balanced economic strategy.

Close to 2,000 people were arrested in the course of the action but Mr. Chand said 700 were later released. Mr. Chand said that 1,100 were in jail for having broken national security laws, which bar any activity viewed by the government as anti-constitutional. He said 200 of these detainees belonged to the six far left factions of the Communist Party.

Mr. Chand said that his government had no doubts about the present political system, which was approved by a 1980 referendum and which he said was the only viable system in view of Nepal's geopolitical situation, its poverty and the priority on development.

The capital was calm today, although there was a certain tension about. The Army remained in barracks and police with riot gear kept up a strong security presence outside government buildings and near the airport and the hotels, which were brimming with tourists.

One of the bombs hit the Annapurna Hotel, one of Katmandu's largest. The hotel, owned by the royal family, is near the royal palace, which was also hit by two blasts nearby.

Home Minister's Statement

OW220145 Tokyo KYODO in English 0126 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Excerpt] Katmandu, Nepal, June 22, KYODO — Unexploded bombs were seized Friday in various parts of Nepal, mainly in the southern bordering districts, Home Minister Jog Meher Shrestha said. The seizures followed Thursday's wave of bomb explosions in Katmandu and three other Nepalese towns, which killed seven people and injured 15.

"Looks like they (the bombs) have come from across the border," the home minister told foreign correspondents. He cautioned, however, that it was too early to be specific about it. Investigations are going on and the government will be able to give more facts in a few days, he said. Nepal and India share a 500-mile long open border.

Shrestha did not rule out a foreign connection with the explosions which occurred in Katmandu Thursday, but said the matter is being looked into. Sixty to seventy persons have been held for questioning on the explosions since Thursday, the home minister said. He refused to mention the political or other affiliation of those detained, saying only that the "majority of them are Nepalese."

Asked if the outlawed Nepali Congress Party can be held responsible for the blasts, he said the facts were being established. "You have to give me a few more days for this," Shrestha remarked. He also made it clear that no foreign national was killed or injured in the explositions in the capital city Thursday.

Group Claims Responsibility

BK220307 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] In Nepal, a group calling itself Samyukt Mukti Bahini [United Liberation Army] has claimed responsibility for the bomb blasts in Katmandu and three other towns. Some leaflets signed by this group have also been found in several places in Katmandu. As already reported, three bombs exploded in Nepal yesterday at a police station, a government store, and a customs office. One woman was killed in an explosion at Birganj. Police have recovered some bombs and rounded up 130 persons in a nation-wide hunt for the extremists involved in Thursday's blasts. Seven people were killed and 22 injured in these blasts. The government news agency, RASHTRIYA SAMACHAR

SAMITY, reported that 56 dynamite bombs were found in small hillside town of Janakpur. One person was arrested in this connection.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has expressed his deep distress and shock at the bomb blasts in Katmandu. The banned Nepali Congress has suspended its country-wide agitation for the replacement of the partyless Panchayat system. The party has also condemned the violence.

Leftists Call Off Protests

BK220847 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0836 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] In Nepal, five banned left parties have called off their month-long agitation for democracy in place of the partyless Panchayat system in view of the recent bomb blasts which left 7 dead and 22 injured. A statement to this effect was published in a daily in Katmandu today by the parties. They have also condemned the explosions in Katmandu and other parts of the country.

Meanwhile, Nepalese authorities are reported to have arrested two persons with explosives in different parts of Nepal yesterday.

Inquiry Into Underground Groups

BK221307 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] In Nepal, police are inquiring into the affairs of an underground revolutionary group which has claimed responsibility for the series of explosions in Katmandu and elsewhere. As reported earlier, an organization calling itself Samyukta Mukti Bahini [United Liberation Army] claimed responsibility for the explosions. According to PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, another group called Janawadi Morcha [Democratic Front] has also claimed responsibility for the incidents.

Meanwhile, prominent politicians in Nepal have urged the government to take stern action against the terrorists.

Home Ministry Spokesman

BK221530 Katmandu External Service in English 1445 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] A spokesman of the Home Ministry today identified the persons injured in the explosions that occurred at the arrival lounge of (Dhangra) airport on 22 June [date as heard] as Messers Ram Chandra Shertha, Jig Bahadur Rana and Khetra Pratap Singh. They are undergoing treatment at a local hospital. The spokesman had said that since the information made available yesterday no untoward incident has been reported from any part of the country.

Asked to comment on the widespread public desire to know about the terrorists responsible for the crime, the spokesman said there are no [words indistinct] which we can confirm, though we have proof which investigations have brought up. When more reliable facts are (?available), his majesty's government will make them available to the public. The spokesman further added that in the process of investigations being carried out, we regret any inconvenience caused to the public and appreciate the cooperation and understanding the people have extended.

Health Minister Rudra Prasad Giri has said Rashtriya Panchayat members Janak Bahadur Shah and Birj Prasad Singh, injured in the bomb explosions at the main entrance of the Rashtriya Panchayat building, are recovering their health satisfactorily. According to doctors attending on them in the hospital, as the Rashtriya Panchayat members were responding well to the treatment there was no need to send them to foreign countries for medical treatment.

Guerrillas Reportedly in India

HK230906 Hong Kong AFP in English 0844 GMT 23 Jun 85

[By Dedar Man Singh]

[Text] Katmandu, June 23 (AFP) — Nepal may protest to New Delhi after reported claims by Nepalese leftists, who said they were behind fatal bombs attacks in Nepal last week, that they have a guerrilla base in India, a legislator said today. He said Nepal would probably seek India's help in tracking down the United Liberation Front, which sources said claimed to have a guerrilla training camp in Gorakhpur, some 50 miles (80 kilometers) from the Nepalese border. The legislator, who did not want to be named, said a protest might also be made about the activities in India of the anti-monarchist group, which is headed by former parliamentarian Ram Raja Prasad Singh.

Meanwhile, Army chief of staff Arjun Narasingh Rana returned here today after cutting short a 10-day official visit to New Delhi.

Police and intelligence officers scoured the capital for suspects in the bombings, which killed eight people and wounded 22. They have made some 200 arrests.

Responsibility for the blasts Thursday and Friday, which killed a legislator and two Indians as bombs rocked the parliament lobby and the luxury Hote; de l'Annapurna here, has also been claimed by a separate group calling itself the United Liberation Militants.

Mr Singh has in the past been charged in Nepal with treason and working to overthrow the monarchy.

Rumours here say that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has financially backed the United Liberation Front, but there has been no substantiation.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) News Agency reported from New Delhi yesterday that the United Liberation Front had claimed responsibility for the bomb explosions.

Leftist students who had planned an anti-government general strike tomorrow have called off their protest in the wake of the bombings. Six factions of the banned Communist Party have also called off a civil disobedience campaign underway before the

bombings, and denounced violence. They and the banned Nepali Congress Party, which has also called off the campaign, were urging the government of Lokendra Bahadur Chand to return to multi-party politics. Parliament, the national panchayat, has operated a partyless system for 25 years.

Official sources said yesterday that a man arrested near the Indian border had led investigators on to the trail of the United Liberation Front. He was one of two people found yesterday with explosives at Birganj bus terminal and in the Janakpur District.

The sources said that Niraj Kumar Gupta had said he was handed 56 pieces of high explosives in Gorakhpur, in Utter Pradesh State. Nepal shares a 1,040-kilometer (645-mile) border with India, which analysts said was normally well-guarded.

Security Laws To Be Tightened
BK230936 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] Nepal is likely to change the existing laws to enable the government to combat terrorism and effectively deal with those responsible for the bomb blast in the kingdom. The official Nepalese English daily, *THE RISING NEPAL*, said in an editorial today that responsibility should be pinned at the earliest and the guilty be given the sternest possible punishment. The daily hinted that a foreign hand was behind the incidents which took 7 lives and injured over 20 people in 11 explosions earlier this week all over the kingdom. The paper has urged the government to ensure that the entry of foreigners into the country is tightened (?up) considerably.

Panchayat Meets
BK231633 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] Nepal is reported to be planning to amend the existing laws to enable the government to combat terrorism. This follows the recent bomb blasts in Katmandu and elsewhere. The Nepalese national Panchayat met today and discussed the bomb outrage. Members demanded the resignation of the Lokendra Bahadur Chand government in view of the blasts.

Home Minister Addresses Parliament
BK241136 Katmandu External Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Jun 85

[Text] The home minister, Mr Jog Mehar Shrestha, made a statement of public importance at the 2d session of the Rashtriya Panchayat [parliament] yesterday. In the statement to the house, the home minister said that most of the casualties of the bomb blast of 20th June 1985 have been medically treated and discharged from the hospital.

The home minister said that his majesty's government is aware mainly through third parties and through other agencies of some of the elements that have claimed responsibility for the terrorist acts. Investigations are also being carried out into activities that were occurring in the country previous to the explosions to verify facts so that no stone is left unturned in the investigation process. As stated by a spokesman of the Home Ministry yesterday, his majesty's government hopes, with the information and clues available [words indistinct] public know with confirmation of the extremist elements responsible for the heinous crimes the people of the country were subject to recently. He said in the process of investigation another bomb was recovered at Khajuria of Danukha District yesterday.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Calls for End to Tamil Violence
BK230923 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] The Sri Lankan president, Mr Junius Jayewardene, has again called upon the Tamil militants to give up violence. He said that decentralization of government powers can be considered if violence and separatist activities are given up. Addressing a large gathering at Asbewa, about 20 km from Colombo, he expressed the hope to see an end to the clashes between the Tamil militants and government forces in Sri Lanka before the end of this year.

Parliament Passes Extension of State of Emergency
HK220514 Hong Kong AFP in English 0438 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] Colombo, June 22 (AFP) — The government has extended emergency rule in Sri Lanka for a further month, although opposition politicians walked out of parliament during a debate on the extension. It was the 23d extension of the emergency rule, which was introduced in July 1983 following ethnic violence in which 400 members of the Tamil minority were killed by Sinhalese. The Sinhalese were seeking vengeance for a Tamil separatist attack which killed 13 Sinhalese soldiers.

Opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party and six other Freedom Party members walked out before the ruling National Party won a vote on the extension of the emergency yesterday, saying they were not given enough time to debate the issue.

Autonomy Talks To Be Held by Tamils, Government
HK220916 Hong Kong AFP in English 0904 GMT 22 Jun 85

[By Neville de Silva]

[Text] Colombo, June 22 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's main Tamil political party is to begin talks on possible autonomy with the government and opposition Sinhala groups next week, in the wake of a ceasefire by separatists, party sources said today.

The government might be willing to grant devolution to the northern province, but the Sinhala opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party(SLFP) may be reluctant to cooperate, other informed sources said.

The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) sources said their party, which though separatist has not been banned, wanted to find out how far the Sinhalas were prepared to go in meeting their demands.

Observers said the SLFP wanted any autonomy concessions to the Tamils approved in a general election or referendum.

Two TULF Politburo members are to fly here tomorrow from Jaffna, the country's northern capital, the TULF sources said.

A nine-hour night curfew in Jaffna was relaxed by an hour from yesterday following the ceasefire agreed this week by the government and the major outlawed separatist insurgent groups.

The TULF leaders will join two others already here for the talks, which will begin with a meeting with opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike of the SLFP, the main opposition group. Mr. Bandaranaike is expected to leave for New Delhi later next week for talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the Tamil problem. The head of the SLFP and former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike, now in Yugoslavia for medical treatment, is also expected to go to New Delhi for a possible meeting with Mr. Gandhi.

Observers here said Mr. Gandhi was expected to ask the SLFP to help Colombo find a political solution to the violence, which has cost around 2,000 lives by unofficial count since fighting began 11 years ago, at least 1,000 of them since last November. They said the Indian premier, praised in Parliament here yesterday by his counterpart Ranasinghe Premadasa for helping try to solve the Tamil question, would probably urge the SLFP not to insist on an election or referendum.

The separatists are fighting for independence for the north and east of the country for ScLanka's Tamil community, less numerous than the Sinhalas.

Mr. Bandaranaike has said the SLFP and the Sinhala Buddhist clergy would not allow the government to "sell the country," an apparent reference to possible political concessions to the separatists.

TULF sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today that the SLFP was "not playing a constructive role." "It seems that the SLFP is getting ready to stir the ethnic pot," the sources said.

District councils with a provincial council at the apex would be set up in the northern province under the government's possible devolution plan, informed sources said. The province would have an unarmed Tamil police force, its own court system within the current judicial framework, and power to plan its own economic development.

Khamene'i: Iraq Miscalculates People's Resolve

LD201703 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 20 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA — Leading the 'Id al-Fitr feast prayers, President Khamene'i Thursday [20 June] mocked Iraqi war analysts and said they have once again miscalculated the feeling of the Iranian people towards the war.

Commenting on Iraqi air raids and missile attacks on Iranian cities in the month of Ramadan, Khamene'i said the Iraqi regime hoped to halt peoples' active participation in the war effort. "Wrong Iraqi analysis are nothing of a surprise, they have always made mistakes about our people", he said, apparently refering to the initial claims of Saddam that he would win a war against Iran in three days. He said "clumsy analysts and (Iranian) anti-revolutionaries who direct Saddam, pretend the Iranian nation is tired of war and would be uprooted with one pull".

Khamene'i also sharply attacked the United States for supporting the Iraqis in their raids on cities and said "American leaders gave the green light to the Iraqis by threatening to attack Iran."

Turning his attack on international organizations, he said they had kept a "deadly silence" on the raids and that this "shame would not be washed away from the hands of those communities claiming to support human rights."

The prayer leader also criticized news agencies for their "cowardly role" in keeping silence on last week demonstrations across Iran in support of the "continuation of the war until the quelling of all conspiracies." "Although the network did not allow the world to hear of this (demonstration) but the super-powers realized the feelings of the Iranian nation", he said. He said the demos taught the government only to rely on God's grace and the power of the people for victory.

He thanked and congratulated the nation for their stiff resistance in the face of Iraqi air raids and missile attacks but also expressed sorrow at the passing away of a woman in last week's demonstrations. The woman died because of heat exposure during the demonstrations.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Sermon

GF211600 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Friday sermon delivered by Ayatollah Emami-Kashani, Tehran Friday imam ad interim, at Tehran University on 21 June — recorded]

[Text] Greetings to the Muslim brothers and sisters all over the world. For a long time the media organs of international arrogance have waged ugly propaganda campaigns against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The mercenaries allege that the Iranian people have grown tired of the continuation of the imposed war and that they are now demanding an end to it. These organs sometimes allege that the Iranian people have withdrawn their support from the Islamic Republic's regime and they are afflicted with internal disputes and conflicts, and as a result of these conflicts the people have split into numerous parties. Finally, they allege that the Ba'thist campaigns carried out by the aggressive regime in Iraq might cause the [Iranian] people to rise against the regime.

Then came the last Friday of the blessed month of Ramadan and the Islamic people celebrated International Jerusalem Day and disproved all these fanciful notions and lies. Iranian cities and villages filled with millions of Iranian people — women, men, young, and old. The earth shook under their feet and their shouts rose with slogans demanding the continuation of the war until victory is achieved. What are we to understand from this widespread, million-strong presence of the masses of the Muslim people of Iran? This great and historic event on International Jerusalem day has demonstrated that the Iranian people are unequalled in our present world in religious and political awareness, and that they are able to [words indistinct]. These people have proved that the aim behind the air raids and missile attacks which are carried out by the [words indistinct] rulers of Iraq is to impose surrender on the Islamic Republic and compel it to accept negotiations and peace.

The Iranian people who are today defending their sanctities against the campaigns of the rulers of Iraq are becoming more convinced day by day that the 'Aflaqist regime is not fit to remain in power even for 1 hour. The people base themselves on the Koranic verse: "Then fight ye against the one that transgresses until he complies with the command of God." Saddam and [words indistinct] do not understand the meaning of complying with the command of God and obeying his commands, and for this reason peace and achieving security and stability make no sense in the event that this tyrant stays. From this premise, and realizing what the predestined divine duty is, the Muslim people as a whole have decided to continue the war against the aggressions of Iraq's 'Aflaqists. The people truly believe that to fight against the 'Aflaqist regime is to defend Islam and those who are wronged among this faithful and proud people.

The barbarous air attacks have heightened our people's determination and steadfastness. If we had held a general referendum prior to these air and missile attacks against the residential areas, we would not have found the same degree of receptiveness and welcome which we witnessed on International Jerusalem day. The International Jerusalem Day march was the greatest general referendum in Iran since the triumph of the Islamic revolution. Nearly 27 million faithful people participated in this march, convinced of the possibility of waging war until victory.

The Holy Koran reassures those who are patient of more Godly blessings for more patience and resilience: "It distresses them that they neither thirst, nor fatigue, nor hunger in the way of God, nor do they tread a track which enrages the disbelievers, nor do they cause an enemy any injury whatsoever, but there is written down for them a good work on account of it. Surely, God suffers not the reward of those who do good to be best." [Koranic verse] The Muslim Iranian people have this Koranic culture. That is why they are brave and steadfast on the battlefield, ready for all sacrifices and to accept human and material losses.

The world's politicians, and the Western and Eastern rulers and their agents are not cognizant of the reality of our people. They basically fail to recognize that our people, who draw strength

from their Islamic cause, are growing more powerful with stronger belief and morale to conduct jihad in order to defend Islam and the Islamic revolution. They do not (?waver) for the sake of Jerusalem. Those who have made a mistake in confronting this tenacious nation must deal with the Muslim Iranian people with justice and fairness, not with despotism, terror, force, or barbarism.

O you sons of the Muslim nation, take heed of the extent of the steadfastness of our Muslim people as proved by their great march on International Jerusalem Day in which millions participated. Know that if the people are God-fearing, they need not fear any ability except that of the dear Almighty God. "O ye who believe! Fear God as he should be feared, and die not except in a state of Islam. I take refuge in God from the devil. In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. When comes the help of God, and victory, and thus dost see the people enter God's religion in crowds, celebrate the praises of thy Lord, and pray for his forgiveness, for he is oft-returning in grace and mercy." [Koranic verses]

Al-Asad Invites Hashemi-Rafsanjani To Damascus

LD222152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] Hafiz al-Asad, the president of the brotherly country of Syria, sent a message inviting Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis, to visit Syria. The text of the message is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I have the honor of inviting Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit the Arab Republic of Syria. Syria is ready to welcome his excellency on Sunday, 23 June.

[Signed] Hafiz al-Asad, President of the Arab Republic of Syria

Commerce Minister Leaves for Talks in Syria

LD232124 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA — The Iranian Minister of Commerce Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari, at the head of a delegation, left here Sunday for Syria to join the visiting Majlis speaker, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his accompanying high level delegation there.

Speaking before his departure Abedi-Ja'fari emphasized on the expansion of commercial relations between Iran and Syria, saying that Iran exports oil to Syria, and imports such commodities as textiles, foodstuffs, glassware and transformers.

Besharati Leaves for India, Bangladesh, Pakistan

LD211141 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] According to a report from the Central News Unit, Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati, bearing messages from Khamene'i to the presidents of India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, this morning left for those countries.

During his meetings with the authorities of India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, Besharati will discuss and explain the latest developments of the imposed war, the war crimes the Iraqi regime has committed by striking the population centers of Iran, overall resistance of the Iranian nation for the realization of the just conditions of the Islamic Republic, and bilateral relations and the ways to expand them.

In addition Mir Mehdi, the Foreign Ministry undersecretary in legal matters, yesterday left for Tanzania and Angola to explain the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran with respect of the imposed war and to strengthen Iran's relations with the African countries. He is carrying written messages from Khamene'i to the heads of those states.

Foreign Ministry Delegation Leaves for Latin America

LD231140 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry delegation headed by the adviser to the foreign minister Javad Larijani left Tehran this morning at the start of a three-stop visit to Latin America. Mr Larijani is carrying a written message from president 'Ali Khamane'i for the leaders of Cuba, Nicaragua and Brazil.

The message concerns the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran vis-a-vis the imposed Iraqi war against Iran and it also reiterates the strong resolution of the Iranian nation to stand up to aggression and continue resistance until the final victory.

Lebanese Muslims Prepare for U.S.-Israeli Attack

LD221742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] Following the publication of reports concerning the U.S.-Israeli decision to carry out a military attack against centers where Muslims are concentrated, to take place on the pretext of the hijacking of an American airliner in Lebanon, Muslim forces are placing themselves on alert.

According to a Central News Unit report from Beirut, the Hezbollah of Lebanon has invited all those who are capable of carrying arms to prepare for a face-to-face confrontation with the United States and Israel. On the basis of this report, and with this aim in view, fixed and mobile inspection posts have been set up in Al-Biqa' and mobile patrols are keeping watch throughout the area. At the same time, Muslims are in a state of alert in the strategic parts of the Al'Biqa' region to confront any form of potential aggression. Zionist military aircraft fly daily over the Al-Biqa' region.

Ten Wounded in Tehran Car-Bomb Explosion

LD221719 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] Following the great demonstrations all over our country on Qods Day, the agents of the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] and of world oppression exploded a bomb on Tehran's 17th

Shahrivar Street at 1330 today. Ten of our compatriots were injured. The Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Committees announced that this bomb weighed 35 pounds and was planted in a red van which did not carry license plates.

Reportage, Comment on Iraqi Military Operations

Communique No 2,141

LD211701 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 21, IRNA — Iranian gendarmerie forces zeroed in on Iraqi positions in Arvand River fronts halting their engineering operations and destroying three individual and group bunkers and killing or wounding more than 20 Iraqi troops.

Announcing this the Joint Staff Command Communique No 2141 issued today further said that several enemy group and individual bunkers were smashed in the operational theatre of Val-Farj-2, in the south, and in Sardasht (in northwest Iran) during the preceding 24 hours.

In Marivan region, in Kordestan an Iraqi mortar launching pad was demolished. And in the western fronts, the enemy sustained heavy casualties.

In the southern fronts, the Iraqi engineering activities were stopped by the fire of Islamic combatants. Fire exchange was intense in the southern operational fronts of Nahr-Anbar and Eynkhosh during the preceding 24 hours, said the Joint Staff Command communique.

Iraq Sustains Heavy Casualties

LD211722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jun 85

[Text] According to a report received from the Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters, during the past 24 hours the artillery units of the Armed Forces of Islam, raining heavy fire on the positions of the enemy in the Jerusalem operational sector, inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the enemy.

As a result of continuous fire, the enemy's sectors in the regions of Al-Shabbah, Al-Hissa, Nasir al-Amin, Al-Zawjiyyah, Al-Sakrah, and Al-Bayzah witnessed heavy casualties. Severe losses in material were inflicted on the enemy in the Abu-Gharib region. Also, due to the heavy and precise fire of the combatants of Islam on the Basra-Baghdad highway, the traffic of the enemy's vehicles in this area was halted for hours.

Majnun Island Offensive

LD221700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] The combatants of Islam attacked the enemy forces in a two-pronged surprise offensive codenamed Ya Amir al-Mo'menin, in the Majnun Islands yesterday morning. [as heard] After going through minefields and barbed wire fences, our forces succeeded in destroying some enemy positions, killing or wounding hundreds of their soldiers, and capturing some of their arms and equipment.

According to reports from the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, yesterday morning a group of duped Saddamists attempted to infiltrate our forces' positions in a section of the southern front, but they confronted the timely and effective fire of the combatants of Islam and retreated after suffering a number of casualties.

Iraqi Patrols Retreat

LD221756 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] Bakhtaran, June 22, IRNA — Two Iraqi patrol groups were forced to retreat in Mehran and Kani-Sheykh fronts, in west Iran, during the past 24 hours, while sustaining casualties. All the Iraqi movements and engineering activities were halted and one group bunker, two observation posts and one tank were demolished while two command vehicles were damaged and a number of enemy troops were killed or wounded in the western fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam.

'Jerusalem Operation' Described

LD221757 Tehran IRNA in English 1739 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] Ahvaz, June 22, IRNA — One of the commanders of the recent 'Qods' offensive said here Saturday that the operations were launched with such speed that Iraqi troops were caught unawares and were unable to distinguish which areas they had lost. The commander said the Iraqis were also surprised at the extent of the artillery fire that Iran's Muslim combatants rained on their positions. The offensive took place 20 kms deep inside the Hawr al-Hawizah marshalands, west of the Tigris River and its parallel Basra-Baghdad highway on 14 June.

The commander said that the Iraqi forces had created numerous fortifications and never anticipated that they would be encircled and destroyed. He said Muslim combatants used a "fast response technique" to bring down Iraqi planes and helicopters that were flying low. The techniques, he said are not usually used in ground combat. The commander said the Basra-Baghdad highway was being daily shelled and that the Iraqis are now unable to use the road as often as before.

Following last year's Khaibar and Badr offensives, the Iraqis strengthened their fortifications in waterways leading to the Tigris River, but Muslim combatants infiltrated their positions using their five-year battle experience on land and in sea, he said. The commander said the offensive was solely in retaliation for Iraqi raids on residential areas in Iran.

Communique No 2,142

LD221810 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 22 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 22, IRNA — In a limited and two-pronged surprise offensive the Islamic combatants attacked enemy troops in Majnun Islands early Friday and killed or wounded hundreds of the Iraqi forces after passing mine fields and barbed wires.

Several of their bunkers were demolished and some guns and equipment were seized. This was announced in Joint Staff Command Communique No 2142 issued today.

The communique further said that in the operational regions of Sardasht, Haj 'Umran, and Marivan in northwest Iran, exchange of fire continued during the past 24 hours as a result of which several group bunkers and six vehicles carrying personnel were demolished and some enemy troops were killed or wounded.

In the western operational scenes, seven group bunkers, and observation posts and four vehicles of the enemy were smashed and several of their personnel were killed or wounded. A group of Iraqi patrol units intending to infiltrate the positions of the Islamic combatants around midnight on Thursday were forced to flee by the Islamic combatants.

In the southern fronts, the gendarmerie forces halted Iraqi engineering activities on the Arvand River fronts and knocked out nine bunkers and one loader of the enemy forces killing two of them. An Iraqi group tried to infiltrate the positions of Islamic defenders in southern fronts Friday morning but was forced to retreat sustaining casualties, concluded the Joint Staff Command communique.

Communique No 2,143

LD231715 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA — The Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces announced today that the Islamic combatants demolished three Iraqi vehicles carrying personnel, killing and wounding several enemy troops in the northwestern fronts of Sardasht and Marivan during the past 24 hours.

Iraqi air aggressions upon Piranshahr, Sardasht, and Sanandaj in northwest and west Iran were also thwarted by the anti-aircraft defence units and the enemy's aircraft were forced to flee.

In its 2143d communique the Joint Staff Command further said that five group bunkers and observation posts, one tank, and three Iraqi vehicles were severely damaged and the enemy sustained human casualties in the western operational regions during the said period. Iraqi patrol teams intending to infiltrate the positions of the Islamic combatants were forced to flee in the western fronts of Sumar, Kharratha and Kani-Sheykh, early Sunday.

In the southern fronts, exchange of fire was intense in Majnun Islands, Kushk and around Zayd as a result of which casualties were inflicted upon the enemy. Exchange of sporadic fire continued in Khorramshahr and Abadan during which two houses were damaged in Abadan, concluded the Joint Staff Communique.

Iraq, Egypt Reportedly To Resume Diplomatic Ties

LD231121 Tehran IRNA in English 1113 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] Bushehr, Bushehr Prov., June 23, IRNA — Egyptian and Iraqi officials Sunday morning started preparing the ground for the resumption of full diplomatic ties between the two countries, Radio Cairo monitored here said Sunday. Final stages of resumption of ties will be completed soon when Taha Yasin Ramadan, the Iraqi deputy prime minister visits Cairo.

Soviet-Afghan Forces Suffer Heavy Casualties

LD231943 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 23 Jun 85

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, June 23, IRNA — At least four hundred soldiers of the joint Soviet-Afghan forces were killed in an unsuccessful attempt for breaking the mujahidin's siege of the township of Zurmat near Gardiz of Pakistan this week.

Mujahidin sources here said 35 Afghan Army tanks and personnel carriers of the joint forces were wrecked by the mujahidin militants, while 200 government soldiers surrendered to the mujahidin forces with their ammunition and weapons. The township of Zurmat, 15 kms from Gardiz in the centre of Paktia Province in Afghanistan, is under full siege of Muslim mujahidin fighters.

In related news the leader of Afghanistan's Islamic movement, Mowlawi Nasrollah Mansur, condemned the current Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan and said it had little effect upon the struggle of Muslim mujahidin in the future. The Afghan religious leader who was talking to IRNA here said the Soviets and mujahidin members who are the two principal sides of the fighting are omitted in the talks and added the Muslim mujahideen of Afghanistan would lead their holy struggle towards an eventual triumph.

Commenting on Washington-Moscow talks on the issue of Afghanistan the Afghan religious leader said insofar as pertains to the outlook of the Muslim mujahidin in Afghanistan the people who are not believers belong to the community of non-believers and as such they are treated as enemies whether they be Americans or Soviets or other.